3) The Secretary, Deptt. Of Environment, all States and UTs.

4) The Secretary, Department of Finance, all States and UTs.

5) The Accountant Generals, all States and UTs.

6) The Member Secretary, all State Pollution Control Boards/Committees of UTs.

7) Director of Audit, CW & Misc. - IP Estate, New Delhi.

8) Deputy Secretary, IFD/Account Officer, B&A, MoEF.

9) Guard File/Spare Copies.

Implementation of 15 Point Programme

*452. SHRIMATI T. RATNA BAI: Will the Minister of MINORITY AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) the details of the 15 Point Programme, especially for the agency areas of Andhra Pradesh; and

(b) the present status thereof, State-wise, especially the projects relating to tribal women in Andhra Pradesh?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF MINORITY AFFAIRS (SHRI SALMAN KHURSHEED): (a) and (b) An important aim of the Prime Minister's New 15 Point Programme for the Welfare of Minorities is to ensure that the benefits of various government schemes for the underprivileged reach the disadvantaged sections of the minority communities in the country, and would include tribals and women belonging to the minority communities. It also provides that, wherever possible, 15% of targets and outlays under various schemes should be earmarked for minorities. The new programme envisages location of a certain proportion of development projects in minority concentration areas.

The status of implementation of the schemes in the country, including Andhra Pradesh, under the programme for 2008-09 is available in the Ministry's website on www.minorityaffairs.gov.in

Demands of hydro power developers

*453. SHRI RAJEEV SHUKLA:
DR. T. SUBBARAMI REDDY:
Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the State-run utilities along with private sector players, in a bid to exploit 1,50,000 MW hydro potential of the country, have unanimously demanded immediate steps to simplify land acquisitions and securing of environmental and forest clearances;

(b) if so, whether the developers have stated that land acquisition is an area of concern which requires to be addressed by the State Governments;

(c) whether developers have also pointed out basic infrastructural facilities like road connectivity, communication, etc. need to be provided by Government to attract investment and expeditious implementation of the hydro power projects; and

(d) if so, what were the other main points mentioned in their demands?

THE MINISTER OF POWER (SHRI SUSHILKUMAR SHINDE): (a) and (b) The Government has not received any unanimous demand, made by-State-run utilities along with private sector players regarding immediate steps to simplify land acquisitions and securing environmental and forest clearance. However, during various meetings with the Central Electricity Authority (CEA), State utilities as well as Independent Power Producers (IPPs) have expressed their concerns about problems faced in land acquisition and getting environmental/forest clearances. In case of forest clearance, the Project Developing Authorities have indicated that getting the requisite clearances takes long time.

(c) and (d) Other issues raised by the IPPs relate to non-availability of hydrological data, lack of power evacuation system, etc. Some IPPs have also raised the issue of non-availability of power at the construction stage and lack of infrastructural facilities, like road-connectivity and communication-system.

Grid and Off-grid solar power

454. DR. T. SUBBARAMI REDDY:
SHRI V. HANUMANTHA RAO:
Will the Minister of NEW AND RENEWABLE ENERGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government has approved the setting up of a 1,100 MW grid solar power and 200 MW off-grid solar application utilizing both solar, thermal and photovoltaic technologies in the first phase of the Jawaharlal Nehru National Solar Mission; and

(b) whether in addition, the Mission wilt also focus on R&D and Human resource Development to develop and strengthen Indian skills and to enhance indigenous content to make the Mission sustainable?

THE MINISTER OF NEW AND RENEWABLE ENERGY (DR. FAROOQ ABDULLAH): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. The Government has approved the target for the first phase of the Jawaharlal Nehru National Solar Mission, to set up 1,100 MW of grid connected solar plants, which includes 100 MW capacity plants to be set up as rooftop and small solar power plants. In addition, 200 MW capacity equivalent off-grid solar applications and 7 million square metre solar thermal collector area are also proposed in the first phase of the Mission, till March 2013. The Mission also provides for support to research and development in solar energy technologies and manpower development through training, fellowships and education about solar energy technologies and applications.

National policy on climate change

*455. SHRI MANOHAR JOSHI: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government has any proposal to make a national policy on climate change;